

**BEFORE THE GEORGIA GOVERNMENT TRANSPARENCY AND
CAMPAIGN FINANCE COMMISSION
STATE OF GEORGIA**

IN THE MATTER OF:

KEEDAR WITTLE

*

*

*

*

*

*

*

CASE NO.: 22-0140-C

CONSENT ORDER

This matter comes before the Georgia Government Transparency and Campaign Finance Commission (hereinafter "Commission") pursuant to a complaint filed *sua sponte* by the Commission on September 24, 2022. Now, prior to a final hearing on this matter, Respondent Keedar Wittle (hereinafter "Respondent") and the Commission agree to resolve the above-styled matter by Consent Order under the terms and conditions described herein.

FINDINGS OF FACT

Respondent was a candidate for the Atlanta Public Schools Board of Education, At-Large Seat 8, and filed his Declaration of Intention to Accept Campaign Contributions on July 21, 2021. Respondent was an unsuccessful candidate in his election.

At the time of the alleged violation, Respondent was a candidate for office, who was required to regularly report the amounts and sources of his campaign contributions, as well as the end recipients and sums of his campaign expenditures through the filing of Campaign Contribution Disclosure Reports (hereinafter "CCDR"). In this case, Respondent failed to timely file a CCDR due September 30, 2021, and failed to file an end of the year CCDR which was due on December 31, 2021.

The Commission is empowered by the Georgia State legislature to set limits on contributions candidates may accept from a single source. Effective September 30, 2021, the Commission raised the maximum allowable contribution to \$3,000.00. On October 11, 2021, Respondent accepted a campaign contribution in the amount of \$3,200.00 from Carla Knobloch. Such contribution was \$200.00 in excess of the maximum allowable contribution.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

1. Respondent violated O.C.G.A. § 21-5-34(c)(2)(A) when he failed to timely file a CCDR by September 30, 2021;
2. Respondent violated O.C.G.A. § 21-5-34(c)(2)(A) when he failed to file a CCDR by December 31, 2021;

Consent Order
In the Matter of Keedar Wittle
Case No.: 22-0140-C
Page 1 of 3

3. Respondent violated O.C.G.A. § 21-5-41(b) when he accepted a campaign contribution of \$3,200.00 on October 11, 2021.

HOLDING

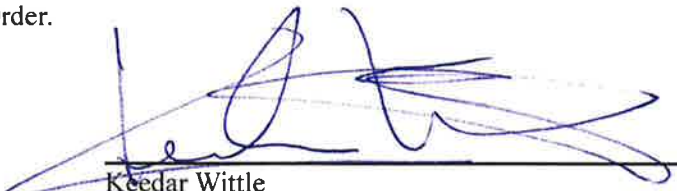
In resolving this matter, Respondent hereby agrees to the following:

Respondent agrees to pay \$700.00 to the Commission in civil penalties and late fees for violating the Georgia Government Transparency and Campaign Finance Act three times. A civil penalty in the amount of \$450.00 and late fees in the amount of \$250.00 shall be paid to the Georgia Government Transparency and Campaign Finance Commission within thirty (30) days from the date of this Order. Further, Respondent, agrees not to commit any further violations of the Georgia Government Transparency and Campaign Finance Act and corresponding Commission Rules.

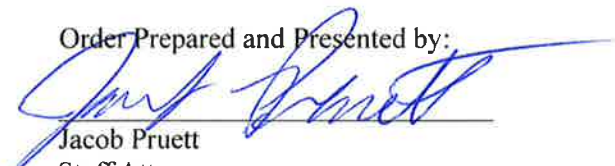
Respondent represents that the foregoing findings of facts are true, agrees with the conclusions of law, and further agrees to abide by all terms of this Order. By signing this Order, Respondent waives any right to appeal pursuant to the procedures outlined in the Administrative Procedures Act (APA), O.C.G.A. § 50-13-1 *et. seq.*

Failure to comply with the terms herein, absent a showing of good faith, will constitute a willful and knowing violation of said terms by Respondent. Respondent's failure to comply with said terms shall constitute a breach of this agreement and thereby authorize the Commission to seek enforcement and/or collection of this order by subsequent contempt or other proceedings against the Respondent in the Superior Court for the State of Georgia. The parties agree that all costs and attorneys' fees incurred by the Commission in any enforcement action shall be assessed against Respondent pursuant to O.C.G.A. § 21-5-6(b)(14)(C)(iv).

The Commission adopts the foregoing findings of fact and conclusions of law and orders the implementation of the terms of this Consent Order.


Keedar Wittle
Respondent

Order Prepared and Presented by:


Jacob Pruett
Staff Attorney
Ga. State Bar No.: 944532

SO ORDERED this 27th day of March, 2023

Georgia Government Transparency and Campaign Finance Commission
BY:



James D. Kreyenbuhl, Chair